

Dear Sir/Madam,

10/3/04

I am writing in regard to Docket No. 03-101-2, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) relative to its consideration of a petition received from Monsanto Company and The Scotts Company for a determination of nonregulated status for GE creeping bentgrass. It is critical that APHIS conduct an environmental impact statement on GE creeping bentgrass, as the release of this GE organism has unique potential to negatively impact the natural environment.

I feel that we are fooling with things that we should leave alone. I do not support genetically modified anything. If this experiment fails it will be too late to change our minds and all these plants will have cross pollinated in the wild and it will be too late. Honestly I also can't help but notice that this is a money making venture for some large chemical companies and under the guise of doing good all that is happening is they get to sell more chemicals. I smell a rat.

I urge APHIS to consider the following points in preparation of its environmental impact statement. Creeping bentgrass is a perennial, wind-pollinated species that has potential to cross-pollinate with 12-14 wild relatives. No other commercialized genetically engineered organism is a perennial species with the potential to cross-pollinate with such a large number of wild relatives.

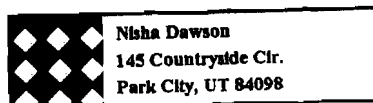
A recent study conducted by the EPA found evidence of "multiple instances at numerous locations of long-distance viable pollen movement from multiple source fields of GM (genetically modified) creeping bentgrass." Additionally, the study found that the bentgrass had the potential to cross-pollinate with species up to 13 miles away.

If approved for commercial release, genetically engineered bentgrass could be planted on more than 17,000 golf courses and millions of private lawns across the country. No other genetically engineered organism has been planted on small plots of public and private lands spread throughout the country. Up until now, genetically engineered organisms have been limited to farmland. Such widescale plantings virtually ensure contamination by GE bentgrass.

Please add my opposition to that of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, because it and related species can be serious weeds, and because they would lose the ability to use Roundup, one of their best methods of weed control, to keep the GE creeping bentgrass it out of national parks and forest lands.

Thank you for your consideration of the above points in your upcoming environmental impact statement. I appreciate your commitment to conducting an EIS on this new genetically engineered organism that has such potential to negatively impact the natural environment.

Sincerely,



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